

**REMARKS**

Applicants graciously acknowledge the acknowledgement of allowable subject matter in claims 1, 2-5, and 7-18. Claims 3, 9, 12 and 15 have been amended. Claims 1-18 remain pending in this application.

Claims 3 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by EP 1260973 to Harigaya et al. ('973). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 3 has been amended to recite "wherein for an intermediate window width the sum of the intermediate peak power application interval and the bias power application interval is equal to the intermediate window width." The Office Action refers to '973 FIG. 6 as teaching the claim 3 invention. '973 FIG. 6 does not disclose the above cited limitation. '973, in fact, teaches against such a feature, stating that "the intermediate heating pulse time OP<sub>j</sub> and the cooling pulse time FP<sub>j</sub> are preferably determined within the ranges of  $.5T < OP_j < 1.5T$  and  $.5T < FP_j < 1.5T$ ." '973 ¶0128. As OP<sub>j</sub> and FP<sub>j</sub> are taught as both being greater than .5T, it would be impossible "for an intermediate window width the sum of the intermediate peak power application interval and the bias power application interval [to be] equal to the intermediate window width." Accordingly claim 3 is allowable over '973.

Claim 6 depends from claim 3 and is allowable over '973 along with claim 3, as well as on its own merits. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejection be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Claims 9, 12, 15, and 18 stand objected to as dependent upon a rejected base claim but otherwise allowable. Claims 9, 12, and 15 have been amended to be rewritten in independent form. Claim 18 depends from claim 15. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the objection be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

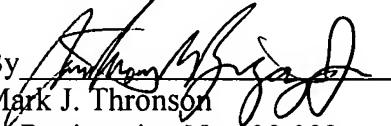
Application No. 10/730,922  
Amendment dated November 20, 2007  
Reply to Office Action of August 20, 2007

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In view of the above amendment, Applicants believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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